

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have rewritten Claims 2 and 11-13 in independent form. Accordingly, support for amended Claims 2 and 11-13 can be found in the same claims, as previously presented, and in Claim 1, as originally filed. In addition, Claims 3-6 and 8-10 have been amended to properly depend from Claim 2. Support for amended Claims 3-6 and 8-10 can be found in the same claims, as previously presented.

No new matter has been added. Claims 2-6 and 8-19 are active in this application.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Feely for indicating that Claims 2 and 11-14 are only objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claims and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that, in view of the present amendments, all of the pending claims are allowable.

The rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of WO 02/075373 has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As the Examiner will note, Claim 1 has been canceled, and Claims 3-6 and 8-10 have been amended to depend from Claim 2. As the Examiner will also note, the amendment of Claim 10 results in Claims 14-19 depending, indirectly, from Claim 2. Applicants submit that the claims which now depend (directly or indirectly) from Claim 2 are patentable over WO 02/75373 for the same reasons that Claim 2 was not rejected in view of this reference. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

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Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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